



Embassy of the United States of America
Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

EMERGENCY MESSAGE FOR U.S. CITIZENS

August 26, 2012

The U.S. Embassy in Riyadh advises U.S. citizens of the following announcement by the Saudi Ministry of Interior (MOI) this afternoon:

Quote: Riyadh, Shawwal 8, 1433, August 26, 2012, SPA - The Security spokesman at the Interior Ministry stated that the concerned security authorities monitored over several months the activities of suspicious elements having contact with the deviant "Takfiri" organization abroad, noting that it has been clear from the follow-up that these elements formed a terrorist cell in Riyadh advertising for deviant thought, and recruiting members to carry out criminal operations targeting security men, citizens, residents, and public facilities.

The Spokesman said, "Through the intensification of follow-up of these elements, it has become clear that they have reached an advanced stage in the quest to achieve their goals, including the preparation and equipping of explosives to be tested outside the city of Riyadh, which led to the injury of one of them with burns and amputation of his fingers, as they have worked for communicating with the deviant organization abroad in preparation for the start of their distinctive criminal operations.

The Spokesman said that security forces have arrested a citizen heading this cell who gave detailed information about its members, plans and equipment that have been prepared and identities used in their communication with the deviant organization, and others who are similar to them such as Al-Assad Alhasour, Fares Al Maarakah, Nimr Al-Jihad and Abu Jandal Al-Yamani. He indicated that this has resulted in the arrest of six members of this cell, all of them Yemenis, adding that investigations with these elements, have been completed and their confessions were approved according to Sharia. Three locations, one of them is a room attached to a mosque in the city of Riyadh, were searched and chemicals used to manufacture explosives and booby-trapped mobiles to be used through remote detonations, documents and cash were found and impounded, the Spokesman said.

It is also in the context of investigations based on the background of these facts, links of this cell have been found with another cell in Jeddah. One of its elements, a Saudi national, was arrested. He was working on the preparation and testing of chemical explosives, according to this statements certified within the framework of Sharia. The subject is still under security follow-up.

On the basis of (what is mentioned) above, the specialized security authorities want to summon citizen Saleh Mohammed Abdulrahman Al-Suhaibani and citizen Ali Nasser Abdullah Al Arar

Asiri, who are in hiding, to clarify the facts of their positions. Their families have been informed about this. As the Ministry of Interior announces the detection and thwarting of these terrorist plots targeting the homeland and its resources, the Ministry calls on anyone who knows any information about them to inform about them on the number (990) or to the nearest security authority. At the same time, the Ministry warns anyone who harbors or deals with them from falling under legal accountability. May Allah guide to the straight path. End quote.

Terrorist groups on the Arabian Peninsula continue to pose a threat to U.S. citizens and U.S.-affiliated businesses, restaurants, and facilities. Based on recent trends, terrorist groups may increasingly aspire to conduct smaller-scale attacks against Western targets. Given that predictable targets may be desired by these groups, we remind U.S. persons of the importance of varying their routes and timing of routine local travel. We also remind U.S. persons to remain cognizant of their surroundings when in public, including any indications of strangers paying undue attention to one's presence, as well as any evidence of tampering with one's vehicle, particularly after having been unattended in an uncontrolled environment. Please report any suspicious activity to local authorities and your local U.S. Embassy or U.S. Consulate.

U.S. citizens are advised to follow these good personal security practices:

- Be cautious and remain aware of your surroundings when traveling in and out of compounds in your personal vehicles, as well as when traveling to and from restaurants, shopping centers, and educational facilities frequented by Westerners.
- Be aware of any suspicious activities when stopped at intersections or stop-signs, and check your parked vehicle before entering it;
- Avoid crowds or large gatherings when traveling in public;
- Know where you are going and have a plan of what to do in the event you encounter demonstrations or violence;
- Identify safe areas (for example police stations, hospitals, Saudi Government buildings) in your area and how to get to them quickly;
- Tell co-workers or neighbors where you're going and when you intend to return;
- Minimize your profile while in public;
- Always carry a cell phone and make sure you have emergency numbers pre-programmed into your phone such as the U.S. Embassy in Riyadh (01-488-3800), U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran (03-330-3200), and U.S. Consulate General in Jeddah (02-667-0080). The emergency number for the Saudi Police, Fire, and Rescue is 999;
- Be prepared to postpone or cancel activities for personal safety concerns;

- Report concerns you may have to the U.S. Consulate General in Dhahran, the Embassy in Riyadh, or Consulate General in Jeddah.

U.S. citizens traveling abroad should regularly monitor the [U.S. Department of State's, Bureau of Consular Affairs website](#), where the current [Worldwide Caution](#), [Travel Warnings](#), [Travel Alerts](#), and [Country Specific Information](#) can be found. The U.S. Embassy also encourages U.S. citizens to review "[A Safe Trip Abroad](#)," which includes valuable security information for those both living and traveling abroad. Follow us on [Twitter](#) and the Bureau of Consular Affairs page on [Facebook](#) as well. You can also download our free [Smart Traveler iPhone App](#) to have travel information at your fingertips. In addition to information on the Internet, travelers may obtain up-to-date information on security conditions by calling 1-888-407-4747 toll-free in the United States and Canada, or outside the United States and Canada on a regular toll line at 1-202-501-4444. These numbers are available from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Eastern Time, Monday through Friday (except U.S. federal holidays).

[U.S. Embassy Riyadh](#)

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US Consulate General Dhahran

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U.S. Consulate General Jeddah

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Earlier **Messages to U.S. Citizens** are available at <http://riyadh.usembassy.gov/amcitmessages.html>.

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